



Department of Economic and  
Community Development

**Connecticut**  
*still revolutionary*

**Catherine H. Smith**  
Commissioner

**TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE**  
**3/11/14**

**Re: SB 380: AN ACT CONCERNING AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS PROGRAM  
TO PROVIDE SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS WHO PRODUCE COMMERCIAL FOOD  
ACCESS TO COMMERCIAL KITCHENS**

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Senator Doyle, Representative Baram, Senator Witkos, Representative Carter and members of the General Law Committee. Thanks for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding one of the bills before you here today – SB 380.

SB 380 would require DECD to establish a competitive grant program to provide small business owners who produce commercial food with access to commercial kitchens. In short, we are concerned that this proposal constitutes an unfunded mandate and that we do not have the resources to fund and administer such a program. Further, given the flexibility of our programs, namely Small Business Express, we believe companies interested in this type of proposal could be served through a loan or grant from EXP.

Thanks for allowing me to share some thoughts on this piece of legislation. I appreciate, in advance, your due consideration.